of independence has now increased to nearly 48 lakhs and the Department proposes to provide an additional 52 lakhs new telephone connections during the 8th Plan, the number of telephones per 100 population is still less than two.

(c) New technology namely electronic exchanges are being installed and full use is made of these exchanges. However, the capacity of the ITI, Mankapur is only 5 lakhs lines per year.

The benefit of new technology can be fully realised only when a major portion of the network is digitalised. Every effort is being made to expand the digital network as fast as possible subject to the constraints regarding equipment and funds.

(d) 50 per cent concession is available to subscriber dialled calls between 19 and 22 hours and 6 to 8 hours. The charges are still lower for S.T.D. calls made between 22 hours and 6 hours when only 25 per cent of normal charge is levied.

(e) The charges for various telephone services have been kept as low as possible. Any increase has generally been to neutralise the increase in cost of providing the service and for generating adequate surplus to expand and modernise the network.

"RLU" Systems in Telephone Exchanges in Calcutta

916. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Telephones have set up "RLU" systems in various exchanges in Calcutta;

(b) whether some of the old exchanges *viz.* '45' and '46' have completely failed to provide service to the subscribers;

(c) whether more than 50 per cent telephone lines of these exchanges remain out of service;

(d) whether complaints of the subcribers are not being properly attended; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further action to be taken to immediately install "RLU" systems in these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the exchanges have outlived their rated lives and plans have been prepared to replace these exchanges by electronic Remote Line Units.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. All efforts are made to quickly restore the lines to ensure redressal of complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

Fire Protection Measures in the Office Buildings of Posts and Telecommunications Department in the Country

917 PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buildings and multistoried office premises of the departments of Posts and Telecommunications Department in the country do not have adequate fire protection measures to prevent fire accidents;

(b) whether the Departments own civil wing has not yet developed its own measures of safety and/or to work and observe the prescribed fire safety rules;

(c) whether none of the premises has fire protection doors;